

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAA Draft Aviation Report Forecasts Growth for Unalaska Airport (FAA Forecast shows passenger, cargo and operations increasing)

Anchorage, AK – Demand for passenger and cargo services at Unalaska Airport will double through the year 2020, according to an updated draft aviation forecast prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The forecast will support a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required for airport improvements to maintain safe and reliable operations.

“The updated draft forecast projects growth in both passenger and cargo demand through the year 2020,” said Leslie A. Howell, FAA’s EIS Project Manager. “Passenger growth is expected to increase from last year’s 29,143 enplanements to a range of about 47,000 to 53,000 with cargo estimates doubling from the present 2,600 tons to an estimated 5,190 tons by 2020.”

The forecast was deemed necessary to assist in defining the type and scope of safety enhancements and other improvements at Unalaska Airport. The forecast reviewed past projections and operational trends as well as a wide range of information from the aviation, fishing and tourism industries, government and the public.

Howell also noted that any improvements to the airport would benefit operators of all size aircraft without limitation to any particular model or type. Identified improvements would not be based solely on any one type forecasted aircraft.

As part of the EIS process, the FAA has formed a local EIS Resource Committee to assist in information exchange between stakeholders and the FAA. The draft aviation forecast report will be discussed at the next Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, 9:30 a.m. at the Unalaska Public Library.

Review of information regarding the Forecast or the EIS process is available at the FAA’s project website: www.unalaskaeis.com.

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